

Protecting America's Children



Operation Predator



**Homeland
Security**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of the Press Secretary

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SECRETARY RIDGE ANNOUNCES "OPERATION PREDATOR"

ICE to Begin a New DHS Initiative Targeting Child Predators

89 Sexual Predators Taken off Streets in Latest Roundup

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of Homeland Security today announced *Operation Predator*, a comprehensive DHS initiative designed to enhance the Administration's efforts to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other criminals. The President has made it clear that anyone who harms a child will be a priority target of law enforcement in this Administration.

"*Operation Predator* integrates the Department's authorities to target those who exploit children," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. "The Department of Homeland Security is coordinating the Department's once-fragmented investigative and intelligence resources into a united campaign against child predators."

The Department's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will house the initiative from its headquarters in Washington, D.C., coordinating all field enforcement actions from the ICE CyberSmuggling Center in Fairfax, Virginia. *Operation Predator* draws on the full spectrum of cyber, intelligence, investigative, and detention & removal functions of ICE to target those who exploit children.

"There is nothing more important than protecting our children – the future of our nation. Through *Operation Predator*, ICE is in a unique position to carry out this critical responsibility," said Michael J. Garcia, Acting Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE is partnering with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to facilitate the exchange of information on missing children, as well as investigative and intelligence leads. For the first time an ICE Senior Special Agent has been assigned to NCMEC to coordinate leads developed by NCMEC that require ICE law enforcement capabilities. In addition, ICE will work with the FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of Justice to partner with NCMEC in an effort to develop a National Child Victim Identification Program.

"Combating child victimization in all its forms requires the cooperation and collaboration of law enforcement personnel worldwide," stated NCMEC President Ernie Allen. "*Operation Predator* strengthens the combined efforts of law enforcement agencies to investigate and apprehend those who prey upon children, while providing the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the public the tools to assist with identifying perpetrators and reporting crimes."

John Walsh of “America’s Most Wanted” also commended the new effort: “I thank Secretary Ridge and the Department of Homeland Security for its efforts to increase the protection of America’s children. Child Predators are everywhere; and they are cunning. It gives me tremendous hope that the future will be even brighter and safer for kids everywhere thanks in part to *Operation Predator*.”

As part of its three-pronged strategy of identifying, investigating, and removing child predators from our streets, ICE will use a single web portal to access all publicly available Megan’s Law websites. In addition, ICE is creating a new multi-agency unit at its CyberSmuggling Center to oversee and coordinate *Operation Predator* activities at the national level. Already, *Operation Predator* is yielding dramatic results, including the following:

- During a weeklong, nationwide enforcement action ending on June 30, ICE fugitive operations teams apprehended 89 foreign nationals who had been convicted of sex offenses, but had subsequently evaded law enforcement efforts to remove them from the country. In Chicago alone, ICE teams arrested 37 convicted alien sex offenders during this period.
- Separately, since March 1, 2003, ongoing ICE investigations into suspected child sex offenders have resulted in 88 arrests, 56 indictments, 77 convictions, and 134 seizures. ICE special agents have also opened 192 new investigations into suspected child sex offenders during this time frame.
- The new National Child Victim Identification Program has already positively identified exploited children featured in approximately 300 child pornography images. ICE has provided this information to several law enforcement agencies around the nation for investigative follow-up and judicial action. In one example, the New York State Police sent ICE several child pornography images. Using the new National Child Victim Identification System, ICE agents were able to positively match 5 of the images to actual children. The New York State police used this information to prosecute a child pornography defendant who was claiming that the images were “virtual” or “morphed” images -- not actual images of real children. The jury found the defendant guilty based on this evidence proving the images depicted real children. In another example, ICE agents used this system to help North Carolina authorities match 54 child pornography images to actual children. This information was used by state authorities in North Carolina to help bring an indictment.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Office of the Press Secretary

July 2003 – Fact Sheet

Operation Predator

Operation Predator is a new initiative developed by the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to protect children world-wide. As the President has made clear anyone who harms a child will be a priority target of law enforcement in this Administration. This comprehensive DHS program will identify child predators and remove them from the United States (if subject to deportation). *Operation Predator* will also work to identify children depicted in child pornography to help rescue them, and to assist in prosecuting the people responsible for making and distributing the pornographic material.

This Homeland Security initiative is being driven by ICE's CyberSmuggling Center in conjunction with every facet of the ICE organization. In addition, ICE will partner with other important law enforcement entities such as DHS's own Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the FBI, and other state and local law enforcement agencies. This initiative is also being conducted in partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

Identifying Child Predators:

- **Creating a National Child Victim Identification System** – In an unprecedented partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, ICE, the FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of Justice are developing the National Child Victim Identification Card Program. Together with its partners in this important effort, ICE's CyberSmuggling Center is hosting the nation's only comprehensive, searchable system for identifying digital child pornography images. With its capacity to search and identify known images, the system is designed to help law enforcement agencies throughout the world identify and rescue children featured in the images. The system is also designed to facilitate prosecution of those who possess or distribute digital child pornography images in the wake of a 2002 Supreme Court decision (*Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition*) requiring proof that such images depict an actual child. Because the effort leverages a comprehensive partnership with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, this system will eventually contain all known child pornography images on the Internet. Already, the ICE CyberSmuggling Center has been able to positively identify children featured in roughly 300 images and has provided this information to six different law enforcement agencies nationwide for prosecutorial purposes.
- **Enhancing Partnerships** – ICE, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the FBI have a long-standing partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), particularly with its efforts to identify victims of child pornography. ICE is expanding this partnership by assigning a full-time

ICE criminal investigator to work at NCMEC, and by using the new capabilities of *Operation Predator* to help NCMEC rescue missing and exploited children worldwide. ICE agents will also work closely with other programs in the Department of Justice and other federal agencies, in particular the FBI's "Innocent Images" program, to bring to bear the full force of the federal government against child predators.

- **Using a Single Web Portal to Access All Publicly Available State Megan's Law Databases-**

In an effort to make state sex offender registry information more widely available to the public, ICE has joined the ranks of other federal agencies in making links to all state sex offender registries available on our website.

- **Coordination with the NCIC Registered Sex Offender Database** - ICE has obtained from the FBI the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) registry of sex offenders from all 50 states (approximately 300,000 names) and is querying this list against all indices available to ICE. The objective of this process is to identify those subjects who are linked to investigations of interest to *Operation Predator*, ICE and its partnership agencies, or who are subject to deportation proceedings. Operation protocol for updated NCIC information and queries will be established on a monthly basis.
- **Creation of an ICE Toll-Free Reporting Number:** ICE has created a toll-free telephone number for the public to report information about child sex offenders and others who put children at risk. The toll-free number, 1-866-DHS-BICE, will be monitored 24 hours a day by the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), which will funnel leads to the appropriate ICE component(s) in a timely manner.

Enhancing Investigative Capabilities:

- **Forming a New, Multi-Agency Unit at the ICE Cyber Smuggling Center** – To oversee and coordinate *Operation Predator* at the national level, ICE has formed a new unit at its Cyber Smuggling Center. This unit is comprised of various ICE representatives, as well as investigators from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and other federal agencies.
- **Appointment of *Operation Predator* Coordinator**—ICE will be appointing an operational coordinator who will report to the Deputy Executive Director of Investigative Services. This new position will be responsible for coordinating *Operation Predator* activity among ICE law enforcement components and other federal, state, and local agencies.
- **Harnessing New Intelligence Capabilities to Target Sexual Predators** – The ICE Intelligence Division, as a result of the merger of the former INS and Customs Intelligence units and their respective databases, utilizes the combined information available from these systems to identify and locate major sex violators,

criminal fugitives and alien absconders with child sex histories. At the same time, the ICE Cyber Smuggling Center is gathering information from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), state Megan's Law lists, and other sources. All these leads are being fed to ICE field agents and fugitive operations teams for action.

- **Prioritizing Investigations Involving Child Exploitation** – ICE's Investigations Division has begun prioritizing its ongoing investigations involving child sex crimes, as well as alien and human smuggling cases in which children are placed at risk. ICE agents have also prioritized efforts to locate those who have been charged with sexual offenses, but remain at large.

Prioritizing Removal Actions:

- **Targeting Fugitive Criminal Aliens with Sex Offense Histories for Removal** – In addition to their homeland security responsibilities, ICE's Detention and Removal Division has been prioritizing for removal those criminal aliens with a history of sex offenses. These are foreign nationals who have been convicted of sex offenses, served their sentences, but have subsequently evaded law enforcement efforts to remove them from the country. Upon apprehension, these individuals will be held without bond. To help track down these criminal aliens, ICE has posted a "Most Wanted" Criminal Aliens List on its website at <http://www.bice.immigration.gov>, enabling the public to see photographs of wanted individuals and to call in tips. ICE has created a toll free tip line, 1-866-DHS-BICE, that is staffed seven days a week, 24 hours per day, to receive information from the public.
- **Identifying Alien Sex Offender Inmates Before Release from Prison** -- ICE's Institutional Removal Program, which identifies alien inmates at prisons who are subject to removal from the country upon completion of their sentences, will ensure that alien sex offender inmates are identified prior to release from prison and removed from the country upon their release. ICE will be partnering with governors around the country to help state and local prisons identify and place detainers on alien sex offender inmates before their release from prison. ICE's Law Enforcement Support Center in Burlington, Vermont, will play a vital role in this effort.

Working With Foreign Governments:

- **Deportation Notifications** – ICE will notify foreign governments of any aliens with a history of sexual offense being deported to their countries. ICE will also seek information from foreign governments on anyone with a history of sexual offenses seeking entry into the United States.
- **Partnering in Investigations** – ICE will work closely with foreign law enforcement partners in conducting both covert and overt child pornography and child sex tourism investigations in the United States and around the globe.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Office of the Press Secretary

July 2003 – Fact Sheet

The ICE CyberSmuggling Center

Every crime that can be committed in the “real” world can be committed or facilitated using computers and the Internet. From child pornography to arms and drug trafficking, the criminal underworld has embraced this medium of commerce and communication.

The CyberSmuggling Center in Fairfax, Virginia, is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in the investigation of international criminal activities conducted on or facilitated by the Internet. Created in 1997, the center brings the full range of ICE computer and forensic assets together in a single location to combat such Internet-related crimes as:

- Possession, manufacture and distribution of child pornography
- International money laundering and illegal cyber-banking
- Illegal arms trafficking and illegal export of strategic/controlled commodities
- Drug trafficking (including prohibited pharmaceuticals)
- Trafficking in stolen art and antiquities
- Intellectual property rights violations (including music and software)

The CyberSmuggling Center essentially serves as “mission control” for ICE’s Internet related investigations. The center develops leads generated by domestic and international sources; validates if those leads constitute violations of law, then turns over these leads to ICE field offices for further investigation.

The Center has also provided hundreds of leads to foreign law enforcement agencies. Another important component of the center is training. The Center provides cyber crime training to federal, state, local and international law enforcement agencies.

The CyberSmuggling Center is divided into three primary sections: child exploitation, computer forensics, and cyber crimes.

Child Exploitation Section: The child exploitation section focuses on child pornography and child sex tourism violations occurring over the Internet through the use of the World Wide Web, newsgroups, Internet Relay Chat Channels, and other technologies. Over the years, the CyberSmuggling Center has achieved great success in identifying and apprehending Internet child pornographers. Recent investigative successes include:

- Operation Hamlet -- a joint investigation by ICE and the Danish National Police into a ring of pedophiles that molested their own children and posted images of this molestation on the Internet. Launched in 2001, this case has to date resulted in the arrest of 34 individuals and the rescue of more than 100 children subjected to this torturous environment. The majority of these children were U.S. citizens.

- Operation Mango -- an extensive investigation that closed down an American-owned beachside resort in Acapulco, Mexico that catered to child sex predators. The resort was a haven for pedophiles that traveled to the facility for the sole purpose of engaging in sex with minors. As a result of this investigation and others, the government of Mexico recently created a federal task force to address crimes against children in its country.

Computer Forensics Section: The CyberSmuggling Center features a fully-equipped Computer Forensics Laboratory that provides specialized digital evidence recovery services for ICE field offices. Upon request, the lab also provides these services to other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The computer forensics section also boasts a team of computer investigative specialists who are trained to perform forensic examinations of seized digital storage devices, such as computer hard drives, digital video devices, floppy disks, back-up tapes, and other external storage media. These specialists assist ICE field agents in the preparation of search warrants targeting digital evidence and provide expert computer testimony.

Cyber Crimes Section: This section focuses on an array of Internet-related crimes that are not connected to child pornography. This section investigates the use of the Internet to further criminal activities such as intellectual property rights violations, money laundering, narcotics trafficking, fraud, stolen cultural property (including missing Iraqi artifacts), and arms trafficking/illegal exports.

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A SNAPSHOT OF RECENT ICE ACTIONS TO PROTECT CHILDREN

89 Alien Sex Offenders Arrested in Nationwide Enforcement Action -- During a one-week period from June 23 through June 30, ICE fugitive operations teams apprehended 89 foreign nationals around the country who had been convicted of sex offenses in the U.S., but had subsequently evaded law enforcement efforts to remove them from the country. In Chicago alone, ICE teams arrested 37 convicted alien sex offenders during this period. ICE will be removing all these criminal aliens from the United States.

Man Sentenced for Possessing Internet Child Pornography – On June 24, Daniel Sweeney was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Kansas City to 60 months in prison and three years supervised release for possession of child pornography. Sweeney was the target of an ICE Internet child pornography investigation that originated in Germany.

Convicted Child Rapist Arrested – On June 19, ICE agents in San Francisco arrested Anis Mohammed Moshini, an Afghan national whose criminal history includes a conviction for raping a child under the age of 14. Moshini had been ordered removed from the country and placed under an order of supervision until removals to Afghanistan were reinstated. He arrested after failing to appear for an appointment with ICE agents.

Fort Hood Soldier Sentenced for Distributing Internet Child Pornography – On June 19, George Lundberg, an Air Force enlistee at Fort Hood, Texas, was sentenced to six years in federal prison for advertising and distributing child pornography via the Internet to people in more than 25 nations. ICE agents recovered more than 500 files containing child pornography images from his computer. Lundberg's Internet alias was "ChildLuvr."

Man Indicted for Child Sex "Tourism" In Mexico – On June 16, a federal grand jury in New York returned a three-count superseding indictment against Stefan Irving, charging him with traveling to Mexico for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a person under the age of 18. Additionally, Irving was charged with receiving and possessing child pornography as a result of the ICE investigation.

Accused Internet Child Pornographer Arrested – On June 13, ICE agents in Indianapolis, working with the Vigo County Sheriff's Department and the FBI, arrested David Garrow Jr. on charges related to the production of child pornography. The ICE investigation revealed that Garrow was allegedly involved in the international distribution of child pornography, including photos of his own daughter, via the Internet.

Man Pleads Guilty to Advertising to Trade Internet Child Pornography – On June 11, John R. Farlow pleaded guilty in Springfield, Missouri, to federal charges of advertising to trade child pornography over the Internet. The ICE investigation revealed that Farlow had offered to trade over the Internet pornographic images of children under the age of 12 who were being subjected to violent sexual and masochistic activities.

Child Recovered from Alien Smuggler – On June 5, ICE agents in Houston received information about the death of a smuggled alien and information from the surviving spouse about the separation from her child during the smuggling event. Undercover ICE agents negotiated the release of the child from the alien smuggler in Hebronville, Texas.

Federal Child Pornography Fugitive Caught and Indicted – On June 4, a federal grand jury in Boston charged Kevin McGreevy with production and possession of child pornography. McGreevy had been a federal fugitive since 1997. ICE agents arrested McGreevy in Los Angeles on April 19, 2003. While a fugitive from justice, McGreevy allegedly molested several underage boys while living and working in Eastern Europe. His arrest was the direct result of information gathered by the ICE intelligence division.

“Operation Hamlet” Suspect Charged with Child Pornography Possession – On June 1, federal prosecutors in Santa Ana charged Bryce Daniel Klepinger with possession of child pornography. ICE agents had found 75 images of child pornography on his computer. Klepinger was a suspect in an Operation Hamlet, a global investigation into a ring of pedophiles that molested their own children and posted the images on the Internet. Launched in 2001, this ICE case has resulted in the arrest of 34 individuals and the rescue of more than 100 children from abuse. Earlier this year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) awarded ICE its highest honor for Operation Hamlet.

4-Year-Old Girl Recovered from Alien Smuggler – On May 31, undercover ICE agents from Phoenix rescued a four-year-old girl who was being held by alien smugglers in an attempt to collect smuggling fees from the girl’s parents. Customs and Border Protection officers had intercepted the girl’s mother days earlier, while the father was awaiting the arrival of his wife and daughter. While in custody, the mother reported that her daughter was being held hostage by the smuggler. Before her capture, the mother had turned her child over to the smuggler. The smuggler had later called the father demanding \$1,000 from him to release the child. ICE agents crafted an undercover operation that led to the recovery of the child and the arrest of the smuggler.

3-Year-Old Boy Recovered from Alien Smugglers – On May 15, undercover ICE agents rescued a three-year-old boy who was being held for \$1,500 by alien smugglers in McAllen, Texas. ICE agents had learned about the boy from a survivor of the Victoria, Texas, smuggling incident in which 19 aliens had perished in a tractor-trailer. Posing as relatives of the child, undercover ICE agents met with two alien smugglers holding the child and arrested them after rescuing the child.

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BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



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ICE Operation Predator

Operation Predator is a comprehensive initiative designed to protect young people from child pornographers, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals.

This Operation brings to bear the broadest range of law enforcement authorities in the federal government to target those who exploit young people. Children are one of the most important and vulnerable assets to America's homeland. ICE will do everything in its power to protect them.

Operation Predator draws on the full spectrum of cyber, intelligence, investigative, and detention and removal functions of ICE to target those who exploit children. In a way unachievable before the creation of Homeland Security, ICE is coordinating once - fragmented resources into a united campaign against child predators

Under Operation Predator, ICE is taking several new steps to identify, investigate, and remove child predators from America's streets.



**Number of
Sexual Predators
Apprehended**

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IDENTIFICATION :

- ICE has created a single web portal to access all publicly available Megan's Law databases.
- ICE is creating a National Child Victim Identification System.
- ICE has forged a new alliance with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).
- ICE has created a new, toll-free reporting number (1-866-DHS-2ICE).

INVESTIGATION:

- ICE has formed a new, multi-agency unit at its CyberSmuggling Center.
- ICE is harnessing new intelligence capabilities to target sexual predators.
- ICE is prioritizing investigations involving child exploitation.

REMOVAL:

- ICE is targeting for removal fugitive criminal aliens with sex offense histories.
- ICE is identifying alien sex offender inmates before release from prison.
- ICE is partnering with foreign governments.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO: 1-866-DHS-2ICE

Help secure our homeland. Call 1-866-DHS-2ICE
Immigration and Customs Enforcement



National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
(NCMEC)

Keeping Children Safer (NCMEC)

Sexual Offenders and Information by State

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[Alaska](#)

[Arizona](#)

[Arkansas](#)

[California](#)

[Colorado](#)

[Connecticut](#)

[Delaware](#)

[Florida](#)

[Georgia](#)

[Hawaii](#)

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